

# ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A reference chart including a plurality of patterns for sampling each of characteristic quantities indicating characteristics of a defective image is read  
5 by an image scanner targeted for checking, and image data is stored in a memory. An image analyzing section samples the characteristic quantity of each of the plurality of patterns expressed in the image data. Sampling of the characteristic quantities is hardly  
10 affected by a displacement between ideal image data and the above stored image data. A correlation table holding section holds a correlation table which associates each phenomenon name for classifying defective image and at least one of the characteristics  
15 quantities corresponding to the phenomenon name. Referring to the correlation table, a phenomenon name specifying section specifies a phenomenon name of a pattern region in which the characteristic quantity is sampled by the characteristic quantity sampling section  
20 from among the plurality of patterns expressed in the image data.

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